

# THE D.C. GAZETTE

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25¢

## November: anti-war kaleidoscope

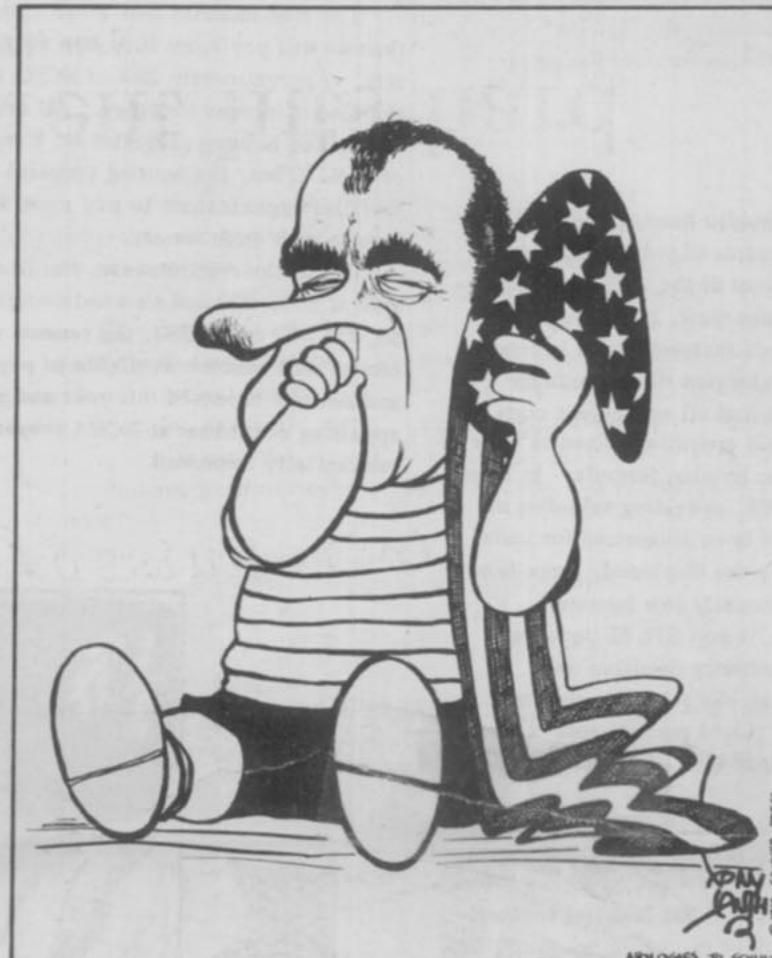
MID-NOVEMBER'S demonstrations are bound to be eclectic if nothing else. The fall offensive against the war is drawing support from sources as diverse as Quaker groups and the "Mad Dog" caucus of SDS. Even that segment of anti-war movement that feels ambivalent about the New Mobilization's war protest, scheduled for November 14 and 15, is planning to do its thing in the general vicinity of the ides of November.

Thus the low-keyed Moratorium Committee is planning to double its one-day October moratorium on November 13 and 14. And a group of District blacks -- feeling left out of the planning for the national events -- have scheduled a program at the DC Armory on November 11.

The motives, philosophy and tactics of the participants are kaleidoscopic. But for the present, at least, they hang together because of a common date, a common place and a common unwanted war.

The mass media has been busily promoting the idea that mid-November in Washington will be violent, a familiar prelude to familiar coverage that films blood but can't report on the heart that pumps it.

In fact, no one is quite sure what will happen beginning next week when the forces of peace, dissent and radicalism descend upon the city. With so many doing what they feel is right, there will probably be enough variety to please and displease everyone. The chances of the demonstrations go-  
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## The city ducks an embarrassing trial

FACED with the prospect of a trial that could prove embarrassing to members of the city government, District officials have decided to drop illegal entry charges against 14 persons arrested while protesting the Council's freeway approval on August 9.

In the case of nine of the defendants, new reduced charges of disorderly conduct were filed. All but one of the nine chose to forfeit \$10 rather than stand trial on the new charges. In addition, Reginald Booker, chairman of the Emergency Committee on the Transportation Crisis, and Dennis R. Livingston still face simple assault charges in connection with the chaotic meeting at which the public was forcibly ejected from the Council chambers.

The trial had been shaping up as a political battleground between the two sides in the freeway controversy. Among those before the bar were major DC political leaders Bruce Terris, chairman of the DC Democratic Central Committee, and School Board member Julius Hobson.

The City Council attempted to pawn off the job of complaining witness to Lt. Col. Sam Starobin, the District's internal security chief and miscellaneous hatchet man. But defense counsel convinced General Sessions Judge Harold Greene that Council chairman Gilbert Hahn should be the proper complaining witness. Thus developed the neat irony of Hahn, appointed colonial legislator (and former head of the minuscule local GOP) complaining against Terris, an elected political leader (and present head of the much larger local Democratic Party) and Hobson, also an elected official.

Defense sought to subpoena the entire City Council. The Corporation Counsel's office attempted to

argue that the Council was immune from subpoena, but Judge Greene pointed out that if such key witnesses to the fray couldn't be called to testify, the case seemed rather analogous to the celebrated Green Beret affair, in which charges were dropped when the deeply involved CIA declined to testify.

The prosecution's case was also hurt by the nature of the charge. The 14 were accused of

illegal entry and it quickly became apparent that the burden of proving illegal entry in the case of such a public meeting would be a difficult one. This was especially so since the Council on this occasion, as so many times in the past, had violated one of its own rules in ordering the public removed from the chamber. Section 10 of the Council's regulations state that "All meetings of the Council

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## Flat rent hits hard

*Anthony Henry*

ANTHONY Henry is director of the Nationwide Tenants Rights Program. He is a member of the board of the Metropolitan Washington Planning and Housing Association, in whose newsletter "The Advocate," this article originally appeared.

ON October 1, 1969, the National Capital Housing Authority announced to its 10,500 tenant families "We have a problem."

NCHA does indeed have a problem. It finished its last Fiscal Year \$910,000 in debt, and is incurring additional debt at the rate of approximately \$100,000 a month.

Therefore, in its letter to the tenants on October 1, the Housing Authority announced a general rent increase averaging \$11.00 per unit (a rent increase which actually averages out to \$17.00 per unit for the 7,000 tenant families who will be paying the

higher rents). The new rent scale will mean as much as a 39% increase for some of the Housing Authority's poorest tenants.

We do not question the need of the Housing Authority for additional funds. We do question the imposition of a rent increase by flat at a time when the Housing Authority is attempting to establish better relations with its tenants, and we question the imposition of a rent increase which makes the poorest tenants pay a larger percentage of income for rent than tenants with higher incomes.

We also question the establishment of a new rent scale at a time when most of the Authority properties are in a state of deterioration and no improvement in physical condition is planned; and at a time when legislation is pending in the Congress

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## RENT CONT'D

of the United States which could substantially change the financial situation of NCHA.

### WHAT IS PUBLIC HOUSING?

To most Americans, "public" housing and "public" welfare are synonymous terms. This confusion has led to much misunderstanding of the public housing program, its intents and purposes, and the basic premises behind the program.

Public housing is housing which is owned by local government agencies, with a guarantee from the Federal Government that it will pay the principal and interest on bonds which are issued to cover construction costs. Therefore, the "public" in public housing denotes the owner, not the group which benefits.

### WHO PAYS OPERATING COSTS?

Operating costs for public housing are paid out of tenant rents. The tenants of public housing themselves pay the salaries of the Authority Administration, the maintenance staff, the social services staff, the cost of all materials used in repair, utilities costs, and a major part of the costs for extra maintenance work and all equipment costs.

In recent years, small operating subsidies have been added to the public housing formula. In Housing Acts from 1961 to 1968, operating subsidies of \$10.00 per month have been authorized for units occupied by the elderly, the displaced, large families, and families of unusually low income.

In Fiscal Year 1969, it cost \$71.83 per month to operate a Housing Authority dwelling unit. If NCHA were to receive all the subsidies currently available under law, it would receive approximately \$7.00 per unit, leaving \$64.00 per month to be paid by tenants.

Thus, public housing is not a charity program, nor under present law will it house the very poor. In 1966, the National Capital Planning Commission estimated that there were 16,500 families in Washington who were "too poor" for public housing. Under the new rent increase this number is expected to increase substantially.

### WHAT IS PUBLIC HOUSING LIKE?

During Fiscal Year 1969, housing inspectors from the District of Columbia Government made systematic inspections of NCHA properties for the first time. They found approximately 15,000 violations of the Housing Code. At one project, James Creek in Southwest, only 9% of the reported 1300 violations had been corrected three months later. A number of tenants and tenant groups are now suing the Housing Authority, seeking to obtain a court order to make NCHA maintain its properties in accordance with District of Columbia law.

### THE TENANT ADVISORY BOARD

Over the last several years, there has been increasing recognition on the part of government and housing officials of the need to involve tenants in the decision-making process in public housing. The District of Columbia City Council, in its report, Housing Crisis in the District of Columbia, called for tenant participation on the Board of NCHA, and in the day-to-day operations of the Authority.

NCHA apparently agreed, for in early September of this year it called upon its tenants to come to a meeting to discuss the establishment of a Tenant Advisory Board. The Tenants unanimously agreed such a board would be good and established a Steering Committee to work out the problems surrounding the establishment of such a board. On September 23, 1969, the Steering Committee voted in the presence of the Deputy Executive Director of NCHA to demand that no rent increase be instituted prior to the establishment of, and consultation with, the Tenant Advisory Board. Although the Deputy Executive Director knew the rent increase was to be announced in a week, he allowed the tenants to vote, and said nothing.

A meeting of the Steering Committee set for October 7 had to be cancelled, because the Authority had heard that several hundred tenants were planning to come, to raise the question of the purpose of a Tenant Advisory Board if the Authority was going to make major decisions, such as on the rent changes, in secret and without consultation. The good faith of NCHA with regard to its intent to consult with tenants is called into question by the manner in which this rent increase has been imposed.

### WHAT THE RENT INCREASE WILL MEAN

The rent increase will mean that the poorest tenants will pay more than 30% of their income for rent. Approximately 25% of NCHA tenants are in the lowest income category. All other federally subsidized housing programs set a rent-income ratio of 25%. Thus, the housing program for the poorest families expects them to pay more for housing than people with more money.

Out of the rent increase, the District's contribution of \$500,000 and an administrative loan of \$3,000,000 from HUD, the tenants will get nothing. Money will become available to pay off past deficits and deficits expected this year and next year. The appalling conditions at NCHA properties will not be substantially improved.

### ALTERNATIVES

NCHA claims that it has no alternatives but to raise the rents at this time. We claim that they do.

The District of Columbia Government has waived its payment in lieu of taxes. This in itself would diminish the Authority's deficit by half.

Legislation now pending in Congress (Section 206 of the Senate version of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1969) could provide NCHA with an additional \$800,000 in operating funds by not limiting the federal annual contribution to debt service.

Section 211 of this same bill would provide payments to local housing authorities so that no tenant would have to pay more than 25% of income for rent.

We propose that the Housing Authority roll back the rent increase, and work toward having this legislation enacted. With these funds in hand, it could carry its operation for another year, while establishing a NCHA Board with tenant control, and developing, with direction from the tenants, a realistic program for improving the maintenance of its properties. If a rent increase remained necessary, it should not be established without the approval of the Tenant Board, at least. A one-year moratorium would give NCHA a chance to establish a decent relationship with the residents.



## TRIAL CONT'D

shall be open to the public. The Council may meet in executive session only upon resolution of the Council voted in open meeting."

No such vote was taken on August 9. The Council, which has become accustomed to holding improper secret sessions, overlooked the requirement.

The City Council, which did serious damage to

its reputation in voting support of freeways, was clearly faced with a trial that would tarnish its image further. At the instigation of Chairman Hahn, chief assistant U. S. Attorney Luke Moore announced that the "government has found the evidence insufficient to sustain charges of unlawful entry."

Bruce Weaver, president of the Brookland Civic Assn., and one of those against whom charges were dropped, commented later:

"It will be a long time before citizens will feel free to come to this council chamber again . . . To this day, I can't believe it happened in our democratic society . . . Were these arrests for the purpose of silencing and intimidating informed and interested citizens?"

### Al's new friend

IT'S okay, we guess, for Democratic National Committeewoman Flaxie Pinkett to endorse Albert Rosenfield, but if it had been us, we wouldn't have bragged about it.

# Your move next, Uncle

A.H. Berzen

IN a movie comedy some years ago, the hero, trapped in a falling elevator, uses the telephone to call for help.

"Get me the building superintendent. Yes, I'll wait" -- as the floors go whizzing by -- "Hello? Listen, the elevator is falling. No. Falling. F, as in Frank. A, as in Albert. L, as in -- as in Limburger cheese. No. Cheese. C, as in Carl. H, as in -- as in hot dog. No. Dog. D, as in --."

I recalled this piece of business recently while trying to call -- let's say, Smith -- in the Federal government agency for which I work. I wanted to tell him that my office had moved again and give him my new phone number. If I didn't notify him, and a few other people, they'd be unable -- possibly ever -- to reach me.

I could not reach Smith, and was informed that he was no longer at that number. He, too, had moved, but I could probably get his new number by calling Jones, on another extension. I tried that, but Jones was not at his number, either; he'd also moved and, of course, had a different number. No, they didn't know Jones' new number, but Wilson -- on extension so and so -- should know.

Wilson, after I dialed again, had also moved. No, they did not have his new number but he was in the same Division as Carter and they did have Carter's number. Carter would know how to reach Wilson. Carter's number was actually Carter's but unfortunately, he was out of town. Did anyone else in Carter's office know Wilson's new number? Or, perhaps, Jones'? Well, Baker, on another extension, might know.

It was then, as I began dialing Baker, I remembered that movie elevator scene.

The Federal government -- (a cabal around an oval table, flag in one corner, Washington Monument visible beyond curtained windows?) -- somehow believes that consolidating offices saves money. So that now most big government office buildings -- and most agencies, except perhaps for the American Battle Monuments Commission or the Atlantic-Pacific Interoceanic Canal Study Commission or the Foreign-Trade Zones Board -- house a permanent crew of telephone men.

Agencies are endlessly being reorganized -- T.O. charts with those little boxes so dear to planners alternating with dotted lines to signify Heaven knows what subtle dislocation to chains of command and overlapping function.

And so Bureaus merge -- absorbing one another's missions and often obliterating, without trace,



whole Divisions -- the building corridors are astir with men moving furniture. Desks, chairs, file cabinets clutter the halls; stairwells reverberate with the sounds of lifting, pushing, pulling.

Almost incidental to this physical chaos is the disruption that keeps everyone, Administrator to secretary, in a perpetual state of suspension. Who's next? And where to?

How maintain continuity when all of that paper, the government's life-blood, is being trundled in or out of yet another building on squeaking dollies? Communication has just about ground to a stop and it is impossible, these days, to reach anyone.

One man I know, scheduled to move, examined his new quarters only to find the movers placing equipment and supplies clearly marked with another Agency's symbols. Upon inquiring, he was told that yes, his Agency would occupy the premises next week but, meanwhile, the other Agency would use the space until their new quarters were ready.

Moving vans are now part of the landscape around government buildings; in alleys and driveways they sit, doors ajar, as office equipment is rolled into or out of their padded interiors.

So widespread has this moving become that the customary civil service jockeying for status -- bigger room, more windows, better view -- has increased mightily with each new allocation of space.

One Chief and his staff, suddenly relegated to a sixth floor warren (eighteen people in two rooms without windows?), became a band of rebels, determined not to budge.

Someone whispered the word "morale" and the move was at first suspended, then rescinded. But another group, less vociferous in their objections, were packed off, instead, to suffer loss of status, air, and sunlight.

Bureaucracy already has enough built-in methods for goofing off -- the task force gambit, the conference caper, the survey-and-study syndrome. But if the trend toward reorganization and moving continues, the policy-making and compiling of fact and figure may come to a thudding halt. And in the silence will be heard only the plaintive wail of some Branch Chief -- lately promoted to a metal coat rack of his very own -- trying to reach a colleague who, that morning, was located just down the hall.



## The Bookcase

If you want a 1970 calendar with a local flavor, the League of Women Voters has published a Community Calendar that includes reminders of dates when taxes are due, schools open, holidays occur, etc. It also has political ward map of the District and a handy reference directory, including addresses and telephone numbers of important officials. It costs \$1 (plus 25¢ for postage if more than one is ordered) and can be obtained from Mrs. S. Clement Swisher, 524 Fern Place, NW (20012).

THE New Community Press, 3210 Grace St., NW (20007), has published a new book called "Every-man's Guide to Federal Programs." The manual is designed to help anti-poverty groups and field workers increase effective use of federal programs. In the form of a loose-leaf catalogue, it outlines the 75 most important programs in food, jobs, health, housing, education, equal rights, legal services, community action, and economic development. The \$9.95 price includes binder and reports, plus an updating service for one year.

The October issue of the Washingtonian contains a report on air pollution in Washington, and a piece on Union Station.

The Metropolitan Washington Coalition for Clean Air, 1714 Mass. Ave., NW (20036), has a packet of materials on air pollution available free of charge. It also publishes a regular newsletter.

ATTORNEYS for the Center for Christian Renewal and six of its members have filed suit requesting a federal three-judge court to declare unconstitutional the DC law against disturbing religious ceremonies. Attorney Jack Dowdy argued that the law gives protection to religious congregations but not to other gatherings. It was also claimed that the law is being used to harass members of the center in order to prevent them from speaking out against white racism in the Roman Catholic Church. The court papers include extensive documentation of recent events in the controversy over racism in the church,

as well as current and historical materials dealing with the right of free speech and dissent in religious tradition. A limited number of copies are available upon request from the Center for Christian Renewal, 1805 Keyon St. NW, Washington DC 20010. (265-0714).

THE Washingtonian Magazine has a profile of the Board of Trade's William Press in its November issue.

THE Institute for Policy Studies has published a thick, expensive (\$10) treatise called "Television Today: The End of Communication and the Death of Community." The report includes an analysis of the Washington area television stations -- in particular their relationship to the black community -- and suggests that WMAL-TV's license shouldn't be renewed. Available from the Institute of Policy Studies, 1520 NH Ave. NW.

## Charles McDowell Jr.

"I CAN'T decide which has made me more uncomfortable -- the Credibility Gap in the Johnson administration or the Incredibility Gap in the Nixon administration," my neighbor Mr. Bumbleton said.

"You will have to define your terms," I said, using the rejoinder that I have heard very intellectual fellows use to establish that they are very intellectual fellows.

"The problem in the Johnson administration was that you often suspected they were not telling you the truth," Mr. Bumbleton said. "The problem in the Nixon administration is that you sense they are telling the truth, but the truth is often incredible."

"Can you give me an example of the Nixon Administration's incredible truths?"

"Yes, the President's position on electoral reform. He said candidly that he personally was inclined to favor replacing the electoral college with direct elections. But he doubted that direct election could pass so he recommended a plan for apportioning electoral votes by districts."

"Isn't that good pragmatic politics?"

"Maybe so, but it wasn't the crystal clear leadership that was advertised in the campaign," Mr. Bumbleton said. "Anyway, the House of Representatives fooled him by voting for direct elections. So then the President was candid with us again."

"What did he say?" I asked.

"The President said he was still inclined to the district plan but he endorsed the direct election plan as the Senate took up the issue."

"So?"

"So I think the President told us the truth about his position on the issue, but I can't tell what his position is."

"I see what you mean," I said.

"The Nixon administration keeps letting me in on more truths than I want to know," he said. "The President made it clear that he intended to accept HEW Secretary Finch's recommendation of Dr. John Knowles for assistant secretary. Then he was quite open and above board in rejecting the recommendation. We keep being told the truth on school inte-

gration policy -- the policy is for HEW and the Justice Department to fight it out. On certain policy aspects of business mergers, it is up to the Justice Department and the Commerce Department to fight it out. On the celebrated Green Berets, the administration said quite frankly that the President himself had nothing to do with resolving the disagreement between the Army and the CIA.

"They were very frank about his noninvolvement."

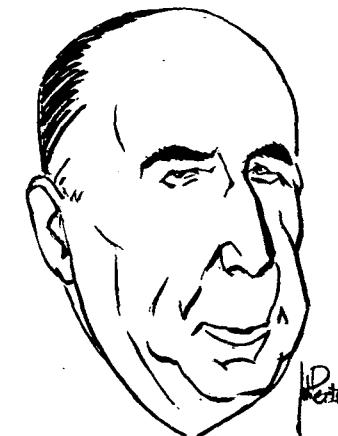
"I wish they would let me imagine he was more involved even if he had to be a little less frank," Mr. Bumbleton said.

"Somehow that sounds like dangerous logic," I said.

"Perhaps," he said. "But I think the Incredibility Gap strains logic generally. For another example, this administration has a higher percentage of advertising and public relations men in it than any administration in memory. Yet these experts in public opinion keep giving us all the details of the President's fascination with vacation houses. They arrange for special pictures of his swimming pools, and they actually spread the word that he is putting the presidential seal on his golf tee markers."

nominating him for the Supreme Court. Now I'm not passing judgment on the appointment in any way. But I do know his cause is not helped by his opponents coming up with new facts that spokesmen for the administration admit were not known to them."

"The impression grows that staff work in the administration does not always make things crystal clear to the President," I said.



**Attorney General Mitchell**

"But I do think he impresses a lot of people with his candor."

"He must have impressed a good many people when he said the other day the he had not read 'The Emerging Republican Majority,' by Kevin Phillips," Mr. Bumbleton said. "It was written by a bright young man in the administration--a protege of Attorney General Mitchell--and it is said to be the definitive book on what the Republicans are up to politically. I wish he had left me free to imagine that he must have read it, if only because he was curious."

"Oh, come now, Mr. Bumbleton, don't you think the President already knows what the Republicans are up to politically?" I asked.

"If so, we will be told all about it in the coming weeks and months. And I don't know how much of this candor we can stand."

Richmond Times Dispatch



**Secretary Finch**

"Is that really significant?"

"It builds the image, as they say. But here is something with real substance. The administration admits it had not researched some of the details of the business background of Judge Haynsworth before

## The case against the bridge

IN the furor over Three Sisters Bridge, it is worth remembering that the nub of the matter is the rampant violation of federal law, District law and court orders by the officials forcing construction of the bridge. Here is a summary of the key points in the citizens' suit against the bridge, outlining the extent of governmental lawlessness in this affair.

Commissioner Washington failed to provide a map of the bridge project showing its boundaries and details of its construction. This is in violation of DC law and of a court injunction against further work on the bridge until provisions of the DC code have been compiled with.

The Commissioner failed to hold required public hearings on the bridge project and to give the required public notice of such hearings.

The Commissioner failed to obtain the approval of the National Capitol Planning Commission in writing of a map of the bridge project and has not caused such map to be filed and recorded in the office of the Surveyor of the District. This violates DC law and the injunction.

The District plans to construct highways within the bridge project at a width of more than 160 feet. This violates DC law and the injunction.

Secretary of Transportation Volpe has not received from the Highway Dept. a certification that the Highway Department has had public hearings, or has afforded the opportunity for such hearings, and has considered the economic and social effects of

the location of the bridge project, its impact on the environment, and its consistency with the goals and obligations of such urban planning as has been promulgated by the District. Neither a corridor public hearing nor a design public hearing has been held with respect to the bridge project. Volpe's approval of the bridge project without having received such certification and without such hearings violates U. S. laws and the rules of the Dept. of the Transportation.

The failure of the Highway Dept. in this regard also violates U. S. law.

Volpe has made no finding that the bridge project is based upon a continuing comprehensive transportation planning process carried on cooperatively by the District and adjacent states and local communities. His approval of the bridge without such a finding violates U. S. law. In fact, the existing comprehensive transportation plan, approved last December by the National Capital Planning Commission, rejects the Three Sisters Bridge. As late as June 25 of this year, Walter Washington and Council chairman Gilbert Hahn (who subsequently approved the bridge) wrote Volpe that they firmly believed the major thoroughfare plan, which omitted the bridge, represented a complete and comprehensive thoroughfare plan as required by District and federal law.

Volpe has made no finding that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of public parks, recreation areas and historic sites that would

be taken for the bridge. Volpe has made no finding that the program for the bridge includes all possible planning to minimize the harm to such parks, recreation areas, and historic sites. In the absence of such findings his approval of the bridge violates U. S. law.

If the District defendants proceed to obligate funds for the bridge project, and if it is then determined that the requirements of the federal law have not been satisfied, the District government will not be eligible for the 90% federal aid reimbursement of the costs of the bridge project, and the entire financial burden of the project will fall on District revenues.

The government has failed to consult with and/or obtain approval from other agencies before beginning the bridge project, as required by law. These agencies include the planning commission, the National Capital Transportation Agency, the U. S. Coast Guard, the Chief of Engineers, the Secretary of the Army, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the National Commission of Fine Arts. Each of these commissions represents a violation of federal and/or District law.

Construction of the bridge will require the use of a number of acres of land which lie within Glover-Archbold Park, Potomac Palisades Parkway, and George Washington Memorial Parkway, and which were acquired with revenues which were authorized

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# The media

THE phantom blue pencil has struck again down at the Evening Star, witness this movie ad:



## "PUTNEY SWOPE"

The Truth and Soul Movie

THE local press, and the Post in particular, often seem to write of District affairs from the stance of a college freshman describing the local townies. The typical air of superiority and mild contempt is mitigated occasionally by patronizing concern, but on the whole the papers appear written by persons sublimely removed from the guts of the city and obviously very glad of it.

A case in point is the Post's meagre and unenlightened coverage of the School Board election. The Post, which was unable to find the space or inclination to publish the League of Women Voter's candidate questionnaire, did discover room to print a lengthy survey of which candidates had violated DC law by putting up campaign stickers where they shouldn't have. Although we have seen suburban stop signs, telephone poles and call boxes bedizened with campaign literature, we don't recall the Post feeling compelled to make an issue of the matter before.

The Friday before the election, the Post published what it called a "D. C. School Board Voters' Guide," which told the voters more about the editorial staff of the Post than it did about the candidates. "It is hard to become too enthusiastic about any of the at-large candidates," wrote the Post. The Post endorsed Tirana, said Curtis lacked "any special qualifications" and was specifically unenthusiastic about Cassell: "His espousal of a generally progressive program has been overshadowed by the fact that the past year saw him participate in the disruption of a school board meeting and a session of the city council."

In fact, Cassell had some good reasons for participating in these incidents, but leaving that issue aside it is curious that a couple of minor events could so easily overshadow a man's stature. One can only gather that the Post considers politesse more important than politics.

Julius Hobson, who got some kind words out of the Post the last time he ran, also made the mistake of being rude. He was criticized for "extravagant rhetoric" (could he perhaps, have read too many morning editorial pages?). This, combined with the tendency "to approve of efforts to disrupt school board meetings has reduced his effectiveness as a board member." The Post opted in his stead for his uninspired opponent, once again coming down hard on the side of decorum against intelligence, ability, political progressiveness, a sense of justice and all those other little things "liberal" papers used to think important.

The Post ended its pocket survey of the election with a hearty endorsement of James Coates, do-nothing president of the board. "Mr. Coates deserves to be returned to office on his record of service as a board member," said the Post, reminding us once more of the fertile imagination of the paper's editorial staff.

We shall, from time to time, pass on to our readers excerpts from noteworthy news releases. This Fortnight's gleanings:

"Mayor and Mrs. Washington will preside at the official ribbon cutting ceremonies for the newest Lane Bryant store, set to open on Monday. . . ."

. "The 1968 Regional Award for Contributions to Inter-governmental Relations has been presented to the D. C. Department of Public Health for its entry in the Urban Development Intergovernmental Awards Program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The entry, a proposal for a Consumer Health Planning Survey, will now be considered for one of the National Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Intergovernmental Relations to be presented by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. . . ."

THE Washington Post is extending its holdings in the communications field. Post-Newsweek Stations, Inc., have purchased WLBW-TV in Miami and WCKY radio in Cincinnati for a price estimated at \$19.6 million. In the deal also was Jolar, Inc., which will have 11% of the stock and which is owned by the family of Sol Taishoff who edits Broadcasting Magazine. Broadcasting avidly supports the broadcasting industry in its monopolistic practices and in its consistent opposition to the public interest. One of the current favorite targets of Broadcasting: liberal and outspoken Federal Communications Commissioner Nicholas Johnson, who has challenged the sort of communications monopolies typified by the Post's control of a Washington television station and an all-news radio station.

THE Post sent a reporter to cover one of the demonstrations at Three Sisters and, wonder of wonders, he got knocked on his steno pad by a member of the local constabulary. What was interesting was the detail with which the Post recorded this clear violation of freedom of the press in its subsequent story:

"Another officer knocked a Washington Post reporter to the ground, then struck him a quick glancing blow on the head with his club. The officer's badge number was 993. Metropolitan police records show that number is issued to Officer James H. Fallin."

It was one of the few times we could recall of the Post bothering to tell us so precisely who it is banging people on the head at demonstrations. We hope this reflects a new concern by the Post over the practice.

Meanwhile, back at the editorial offices, the interest in all the facts wasn't so great. An editorial in the Post two days later attacked claims that the Highway Department is still considering an inner loop route south of Florida Ave. The Post claimed that "the planning commission and the city council have formally scrapped this route in favor of a K street tunnel." True enough, but what the Post neglected to add is that these same bodies voted against a Three Sisters Bridge at the same time. And what difference did that make?

THERE'S nothing like a little adversity to test the mettle of a PR man. Consider the case of the consumer revolt. Something to be feared in executive suites? Not at the Whirlpool Corporation, which last week sent us an invitation to attend a special press showing of the "Care-a-van," described as an "industry-oriented musical for consumers." The Madison Square Garden presentation (Whirlpool would like to fly us to New York and back and give us cocktails and lunch) is a "national production of value to the consumer. . . . designed to help consumers know how to buy. . . . how to use. . . . how to get service for her appliances." We're afraid we'll have to miss the New York show but in case you're interested, it'll be at L'Enfant Plaza Theatre on Nov. 10 at 10, 2 and 8. Remember: "It's a live presentation with solid information wrapped in a bright modern package." And probably only half-full.

HEADLINE in the Washington Post: "Political Dissent Remains Unpopular."

## Bridge cont'd

by Congress to be spent only for park and playground purposes. The use of such land for commercial highways will violate U. S. and DC law.

Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel and National Park Services Director George Hartzog are planning to transfer a number of acres of federal park land to the District to permit the city to build the bridge and accesses. Such transfer and subsequent construction will not conserve the scenic and natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and will not leave the lands unimpaired for enjoyment for future generations. Such transfer and construction will violate federal law.

On October 31, the U. S. Court of Appeals refused to grant an injunction to stop work on the bridge. The injunction had been requested by participants in the bridge suit, based on the arguments summarized above.

The District's position in the case was that the 1968 Highway Act ordered the city to build the bridge "notwithstanding any other provision of law or any court decision or administrative action to the contrary."

The court did order a full hearing on the merits of the case within 60 days. Further, the court indicated that if the District Court did not move swiftly enough -- or if the District lets any contracts beyond the ones presently in effect -- it might reconsider the matter and order an injunction. The District has promised not to let additional contracts during this period.

The appeals court's reasoning was that the city had committed itself to \$1.1 million worth of work and to order a stoppage at this point might cause the city "to incur substantial financial penalties."

~~THE official telephone directory of the U. S. Senate lists numbers for various Washington cab companies. No predominantly black cab company is listed.~~

## THE D.C. GAZETTE

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### EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: Sam Smith

Editor's Wife: Kathy Smith

Associate Editor: Erbin Crowell

Photo Editor: Roland L. Freeman

Office Manager: Nan Niblock

Editorial Assistant: Joseph Tolliver

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### ARTICLES

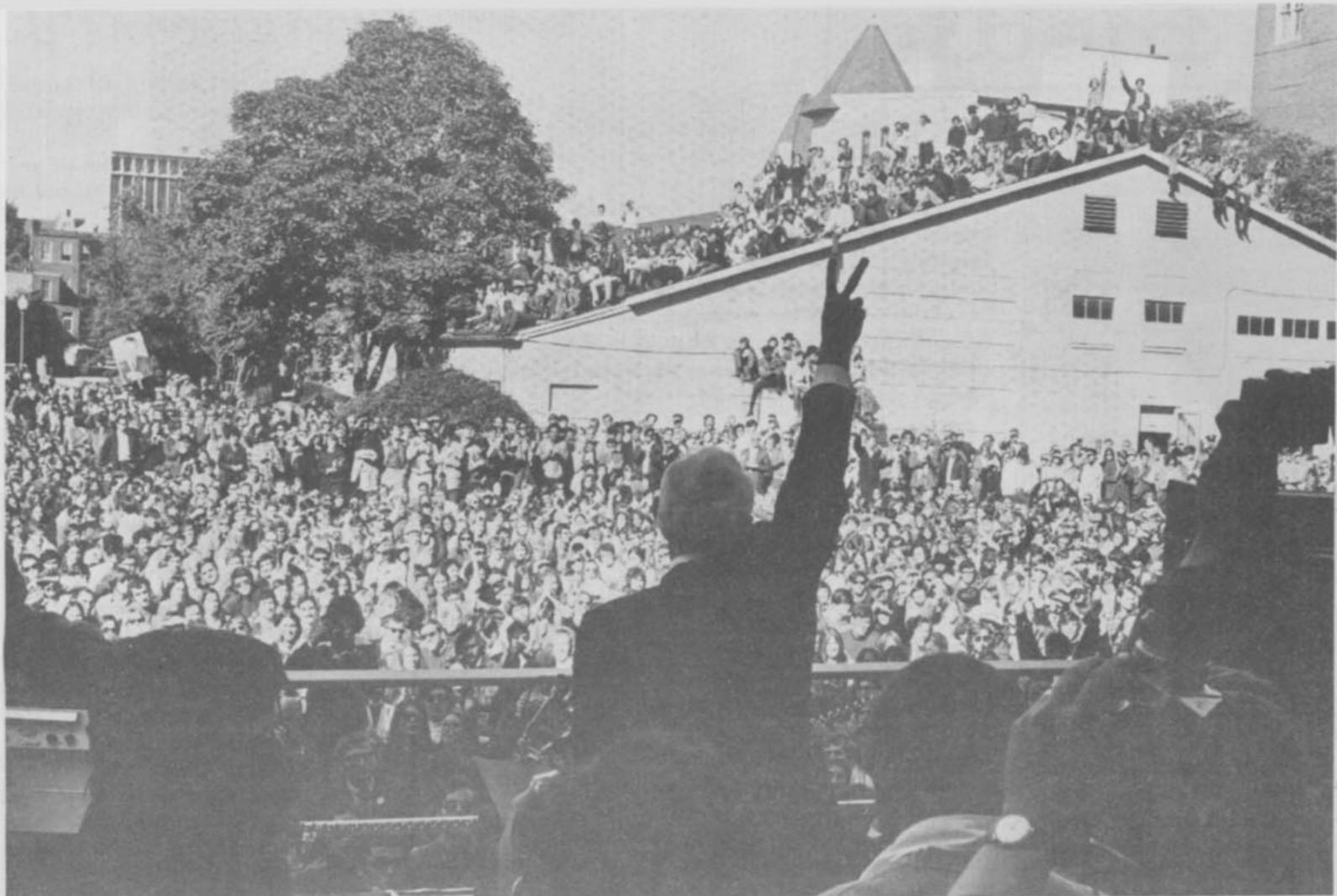
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## M-DAY

by Roland Freeman



"IN the Thursday, Oct. 16, paper Lawrence Feinberg wrote about how Moratorium Day went at Bannockburn Elementary School. He quoted what one boy declared. I am that boy the one who gave the speech saying that. I was on the Hawk side. But I want to make it clear that I am really a Dove. Our class held a debate. Not one person in my whole class wanted to be on the Hawk side. I am really a Dove, and everybody else that was on the Hawk side is really a Dove too."

Craig Bennett, in a letter to the Post



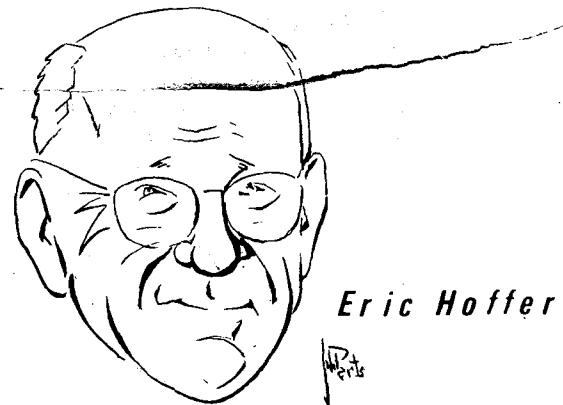
## The Swampoodle Report

AS deputy Chief Owen Davis said the other day down at Three Sisters, "Okay everyone out of the water." It's time for another report on the state of affairs in the District.

There's been a lot of protest lately, revolving around such issues as the war, freeways, and the Hoffenmaier rendering plant. The government is reacting to the criticism. Walter Washington is even reported ready to get Hoffenmaier out of Georgetown before the infantry leaves Vietnam. But astute observers say not to hold your breath waiting--only your nose.

Meanwhile, Spiro Agnew, the rhetorical Lizzie Borden of the Nixon Administration, has called those who don't like the war effete intellectual snobs. Which makes his daughter one of the youngest effete snobs in American intellectual history. Or maybe he didn't mean what he said. On other occasions he has accused these same people of being anti-intellectual. I always thought the only anti-intellectual intellectual was Eric Hoffer, but Spiro couldn't have meant him, because Eric likes the war.

But back to Agnew. He refused to back down from his comments when criticized about them. Said the holder of the second highest office in the land, "I call them snobs for most of them disdain to mingle with the masses who work for a living. . ." Which brought to mind an article I had seen in the paper of a number of Agnew's fellow Administration members riding to the Armory in a cocktail-and-dinner-serving chartered bus to see a proletarian horse show. I wonder if the driver asked them for exact change.



*Eric Hoffer*

But what really bothered some people was the suggestion by Agnew that we shouldn't let these trouble makers' license destroy liberty: "We can, however, afford to separate them from our society--with no more regret than we should feel over discarding rotten apples from a barrel."

A few fuzzy-headed liberals were afraid Agnew might be talking about concentration camps. In reviewing the speech, however, I'm reasonably certain he was just defending the draft.

Anyway, Agnew's in trouble. He's got competition. He's being pushed by Bobby Seale and -- if that weren't enough -- Washington's own Anita Allen as well.

Mrs. Allen said the other day that "The Hobson package of candidates should be elected only if your aim is to destroy education in the District of Columbia." Mrs. Allen, who has turned into a black Louise Day Hicks, also said she couldn't pick between Charles Cassell and Bardyl Tirana because "I am not prepared to choose between a bite by an adder and a snake," which is, on reflection, fortunate since an adder is a snake.

And out in Chicago, Bobby Seale was quoted in the Washington Post as calling Judge Hoffman a "fascist dog" and a "son-of-a-gun". The Black Panther Party immediately issued a statement denying that any of its members had ever called anyone a "son-of-a-gun." The Party said the mis-quote hurt its image. An editor of the Post wired back "Jumping grasshoppers, fellas, we sure as heck didn't mean any harm."

So on the whole, people don't seem to be heeding President Nixon's call to lower their voices. Beset

by extremist snobs on one hand and an extremist Supreme Court on the other, Richard Nixon continues his search for the great American political center, which -- Mort Sahl suggests -- is like moving twin beds together and sleeping in the crack.



*Bobby Seale*

Here in the District, there's still trouble. Several people were arrested the other day for protesting the pilot precinct project.

I did a little research into the origins of the project recently, and to my amazement discovered that it was designed as a program to improve

police-community relations. Isn't history interesting?

Take, for example, the history of the reorganized city government. When Lyndon Johnson appointed its members, he told them to build bridges between the government and the people. Little did he know how literally they would take him.

Crime is very much in the news. President Nixon is pushing for a preventive detention bill that would allow the court to lock up dangerous looking people for sixty days without a trial. Senator Tydings has his own version: he wants the detention limited to one month.

So you see, the New Left is quite wrong when it says there's no difference between conservatives and liberals. There is a difference: 30 days.

That's it folks. Remember on November 15 to march for the movement of your choice, but march.

*Josiah Swampoodle*

## Muzzling dissent

AS we went to press, the City Council was about to approve on second reading an extraordinary regulation aimed at intimidating and muzzling citizens critical of it and other governmental agencies.

The sweeping regulation states that "No person or group of persons shall wilfully and knowingly (a) utter loud, threatening, or abusive language, or engage in any disorderly or disruptive conduct within any building or part of any building owned or under the control of the District of Columbia with the intent to impede, disrupt, or disturb the orderly conduct of any meeting, hearing, or other proceeding of the District of Columbia, or of any officer, employee, or agency of the District of Columbia Government; or (b) enter or remain in, during the course of any meeting, hearing, or other proceeding of the District of Columbia Council or any committee or subcommittee thereof, any area set aside for use by persons other than the general public except in accordance with the rules of the Council."

Violation of the regulation carries a ten day jail sentence or a \$300 fine.

The clear import of the rules is to stifle demonstrations and testimony highly critical of the Coun-

cil and city government. It could be used to cut off the mildest form of protest. It could be used against anyone strenuously disagreeing with some low level city functionary. It is a gag on the right of the people to petition their government for redress of grievances.

As long as the government was willing to tolerate strong criticism, there was a measure of communication between the people and the District Building. But the Council now has not only grown tired of trying to represent the people; it has grown tired of listening to them as well.

There seems to be a constitutional question as to how far city officials can isolate themselves from threatening and abusive language. Most of the language that we have heard spoken that has been threatening or abusive has been so because it is the truth. And while we admit that men like Gilbert Hahn and Sterling Tucker rightly feel threatened and abused by the truth, we wonder the extent of their power to protect themselves against it. But that's another law suit.

In the meantime, suffice it to say that the City Council has given us one more reason for regarding it with mistrust.

## Jail before trial

THE Nixon Administration's preventive detention bill is coming under deserved attack.

The measure would permit District and other federal courts to lock up for a period of 60 days without trial persons accused of certain crimes whom the judge feels are probably guilty and might commit more crimes if allowed bail.

The demonstrably anti-black legislation is not only supported by the L&O boys of the Nixon Administration, but by their local agents as well: Commissioner Washington and Police Chief Wilson. Wilson says that the "thing we need most is pretrial detention." (That sort of insight into law enforcement problems may help explain why Washington's crime rate continues to mount.)

From the start lawyers and civil libertarians have criticized the measure as unconstitutional. During a recent appearance before the House Judiciary Committee, both the American Bar Association and the National Bar Association lent support to this view.

Jerome Shestack of the ABA told the committee

that the measure was probably unconstitutional and would lessen a defendant's right to a fair trial. Further, he said there was no evidence to support the view that preventive detention would be effective.

Asked George E. Sawyer, of the Friends Committee on National Legislation: "Has history so thoroughly passed us by that we fail to remember the Nazi concentration camps where human beings were preventively detained?"

The legislation is based on the premise that a judge should have the power to decide who is probably guilty and who is probably dangerous -- two concepts that fly in the face of traditional concepts of American justice.

What is particularly depressing is that the bill is part of a pattern in the Nixon Administration of testing the limits to which civil liberties can be constitutionally undermined. It was attempted -- fortunately without success -- when the Administration argued for a delay in southern school desegre-

# flotsam & jetsam

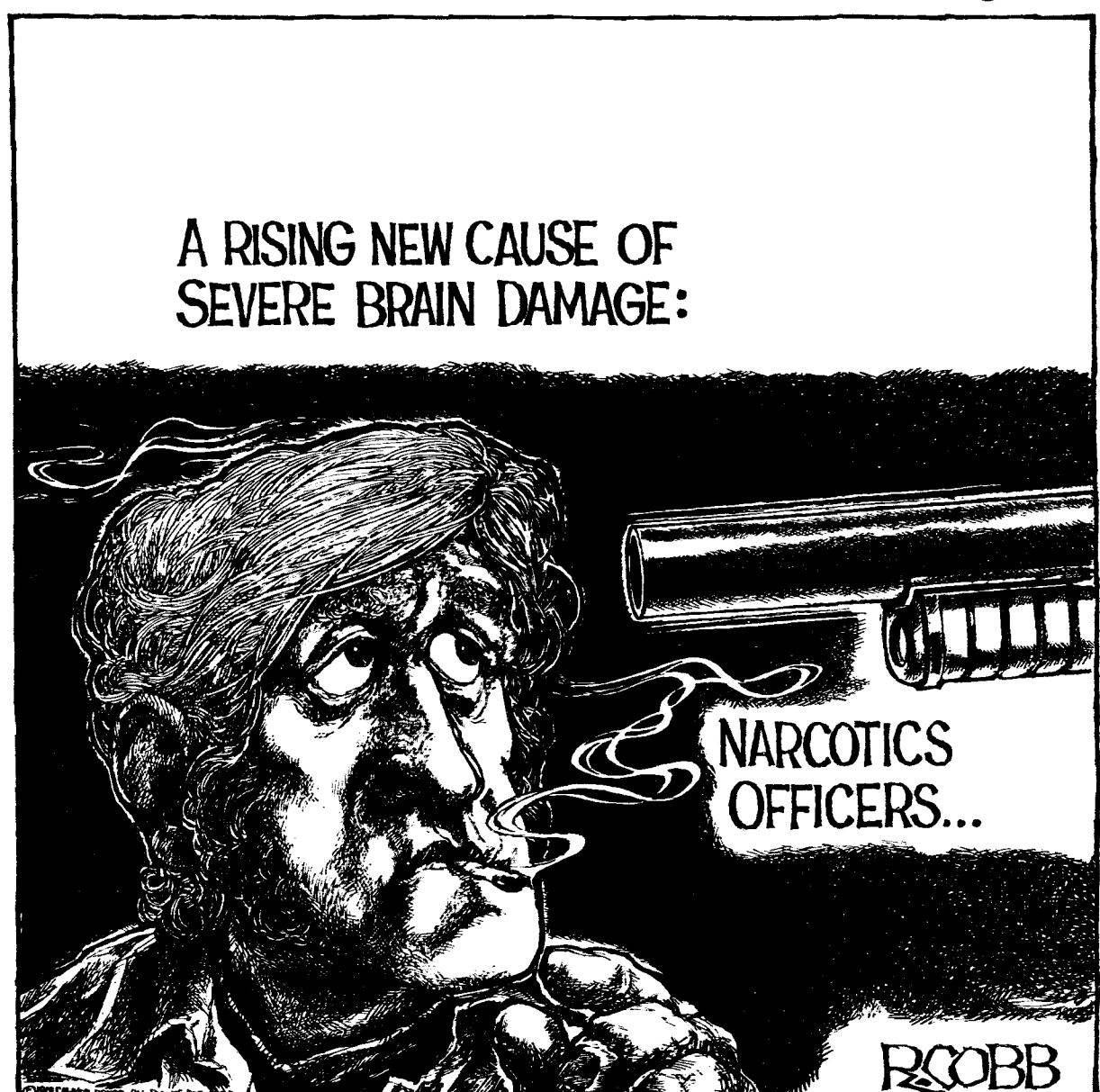
A subcommittee of the House District Committee has hired an ex-Treasury agent to look into complaints that members of the committee have received from their buddies in the District. Among the matters retired T-man Paul Yates Little is to investigate are "discrimination in reverse" against white District employees, slumlords being harassed by housing inspectors, and "unsuitable men" being promoted to high positions in the police department. We can almost hear investigator Little leaning over the microphone and asking Walter Washington, "Did you ever or do you now seek improvements in the DC Government. . . ."

Unlike the Administration and much of the press, we think Sweden's new prime minister seems like a pretty decent sort, certainly as good as the run-of-the-mill national politician we've been getting lately. We liked especially his comment concerning the US's lack of an ambassador in Stockholm: "I don't



*Olaf Palme*

think you can conclude that the United States, by not sending as ambassador, is saying that it does not approve of the Government of Sweden," said Mr. Palme. "To argue this is to argue that the United States does approve of the Governments in Greece, South Africa, Spain and Bulgaria, where it does have ambassadors."



WASHINGTON went to the polls as we went to press. We'll have a story on the School Board election in the next issue.

THE Nixon Administration is pursuing economic policies that are already hurting low income city dwellers and the worst is yet to come.

As a by-product of its anti-inflation drive, unemployment is climbing, with the poor and the black the prime victims.

The Secretary of the Treasury says the present 4% unemployment rate (which means 8% if you're black) is "acceptable."

Says a study by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta: "Those groups that can afford the increase in unemployment the least are likely to feel the impact the most."



*Secretary Kennedy*

Secretary Kennedy says that's acceptable. Of course. Who ever heard of a Secretary of Treasury being laid off in a job-cutback?

IN February, the terms of City Councilmen Stanley Anderson and Polly Shackleton are up and --in all probability -- the White House won't re-appoint them, thus completing Nixon's process of eviscerating the Council.

## JAIL Cont'd

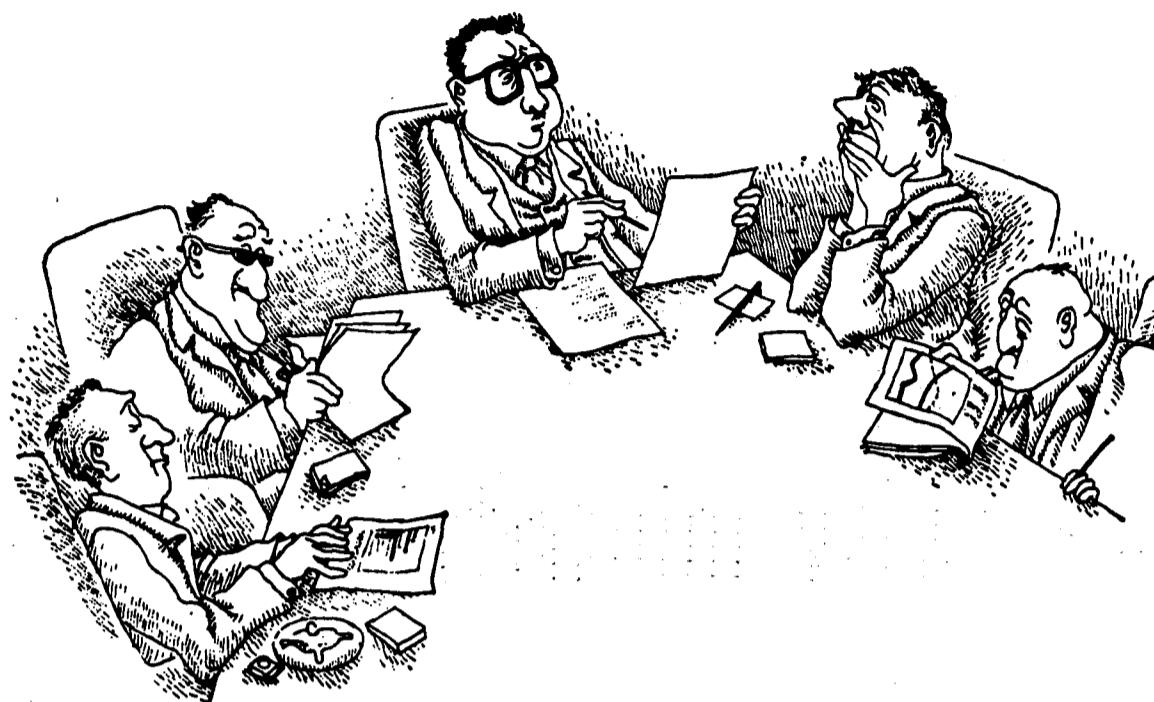
gation. It was attempted again when Attorney General Mitchell encouraged prosecutors to try to undo Supreme Court decisions on criminal matters. Now, with Nixon's DC crime bill, we find another effort to whittle away at laws protecting civil liberties.

Nixon's approach in the matter of preventive detention reminded Rep. Jerome Waldie (D-Calif.) of the legal system in Alice's Wonderland. The White Queen told Alice about a prisoner being punished before his trial and before he had committed a crime. "The crime," said the Queen, "comes last of all."

Alice: "What if he never commits the crime?"

Queen: "Why, that would be all the better, wouldn't it?"





*"The only serious drawback I can see about bringing this weapon into production is that it might bring civilization, as we know it, to an end."*

--LNS

## EVENTS

### War protest

Nov. 11: The Coalition of Blacks Against the War in Vietnam holds a demonstration at the DC Armory from 4:30 to 8:30 p. m. Names of the District war dead will be read and members of their families will be introduced. Mrs. Martin Luther King may appear. The demonstration is being planned by Roena Rand and Willie Hardie who complain that the predominantly white peace groups have not consulted the local black community. They say the coalition will not participate in other peace activities from Nov. 13 to 15. Supporters of the coalition include some 25 black organizations. Any relative of a Vietnam war casualty interested in participating should contact her at 399-6633 or 399-2154.

Nov. 13: Vietnam Moratorium. A reprise of last month's one day moratorium. Local events by numerous groups, including hearings on the war. Professionals for Peace are planning a program called "Peace in the Park" at Farragut Park, McPherson Park and Dupont Circle from 11 to 2. Moratorium events continue on Nov. 14.

Nov. 13: 8 p. m. March Against Death begins at Arlington cemetery. (Symbolic march of 46,000 people representing the 46,000 American dead in Vietnam.)

Nov. 14: March Against Death continues all day. Nov. 15: 9 a. m. Assemble for mass march. Mall between 3rd and 6th Streets.

11 a. m. Mass march to White House led by GI's and March Against Death participants. 2 p. m. Rally at Ellipse. Speakers and entertainment.

8 p. m. Meetings to discuss possible continuing activities.

### The bridge hassle

Nov. 16: Rally at Georgetown University sponsored by the Student Committee on the Transportation Crisis. Noon. To be followed by a march on the Three Sisters Bridge construction site. The Emergency Committee on the Transportation Crisis, fearful that a mass march on the site (located between the river and the canal) might result in a tear gas massacre, has scheduled a rally at 18th & U, tentatively for 1 p. m.

### Misc.

THE Democratic Central Committee meets Nov. 10 at 8 p. m. at 1009 13th NW.

THE DC Council holds hearings on Dec. 2 at 2 p. m. on regulations for protection from radiation.

THE DC School Board meets Nov. 19 at 7:30 p. m. at 415 12th NW.

REGINALD Booker, chairman of the Emergency Committee on the Transportation Crisis, and Dennis R. Livingston are scheduled to stand trial on Nov. 19 on charges growing out of Aug. 9 City Council meeting on the freeways. The pair are charged with simple assault.

THE Board of Zoning Adjustment meets in room 500 of the District Building on Nov. 12 at 9:30 a. m.

THE last in a series of consumer workshops will be held this month at the Anacostia Branch Library, 18th & Good Hope Rd. SE. Sessions begin at 7 p. m. On Nov. 12: "Your Interest in Saving." Nov. 19: "Borrowing: How, When, Where."

## BULLETIN BOARD

### HELP NEEDED

I AM a four year old living in Washington, D. C. I attend a nursery school with lots of other children my age. We desperately need someone like you to volunteer your time to give us an eye screening test. It's really a quick and easy test to learn. The Prevention of Blindness Society Pre-school Staff will teach you how to screen and work hand in hand with you. They will only ask you to give a minimum of three hours a morning twice a month. Wouldn't it be awful if I didn't do well when I enter school just because I couldn't see the blackboard. Please call 737-0277 today, to volunteer.

HINE Jr. High School in SE Washington is organizing a symphony orchestra and is in need of musical instruments. Instruments required are flutes, trumpets, cornets, alto horns, saxophones, french horns and trombones. Persons able to donate instruments should call Mrs. Williams at 629-2441 or 629-2460.

WETA-TV is seeking to obtain television sets that receive UHF channels and/or adapters that can convert older model TV's to UHF. These sets would be distributed to day-care center and similar facilities which, because of financial hardship, cannot secure a set on their own. Channel 26 is running this drive in connection with a new pre-school children's series that begins on Nov. 10: "Sesame Street." The program will be seen at 9 a. m. and 4 p. m. weekdays. Channel 26 is encouraging mothers to form viewing groups of pre-schoolers. Persons interested in donating or loaning sets should contact Ray Ethridge, 737-6655.

### MEETINGS

DR. Rolf F. Pauls, Ambassador of the German Federal Republic, will speak in German on: "Problems of the Coming Years," on Nov. 13 at 8 p. m. at the German Embassy. A reception will follow. The meeting is sponsored by the German Language Society. For information on tickets, call 667-4971.

THE Gazette Bulletin Board provides free space for short public announcements. Send items to THE Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, Washington DC 20002.

### PEACE Cont'd

ing just the way anyone wants them to are not great. And in this uncertainty lies some of the potential life and force of the November appeal against the war. It will reflect both the best and the worst of what Vietnam has done to us.

For Washingtonians, aside from the overwhelming issue of the war itself, there is particular cause for participation. The call of the fall offensive, issued by the New Mobe (sponsor of the Nov. 14-15 demonstrations), includes a demand for an end to colonialism in Washington D. C. For the first time in a national peace demonstration, a local leader --Julius Hobson-- has been named as one of the major speakers. And national peace groups are cooperating in publicizing and supporting a November 16 rally and demonstration against the Three Sisters Bridge project. may be a small thing, but such national concern for the plight of the District is new and it is significant.

**Some of our best friends are  
militants,  
dissenters,  
effete intellectual snobs  
and members of the noisy minority**

**Find out what they're doing.**

**They may turn out to be your friends too.**

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# THE D.C. GAZETTE

Vol. I Nr. 2  
November 6, 1969

## The scene at Three Sisters Bridge

*Erbin Crowell*

It looked more like a police convention than a construction site on the D.C. side of the proposed Three Sisters Bridge. There were at least twenty patrol cars, five or six paddy wagons, motorcycles all over the place, and even a patrolman on horseback. And the riot squad was there, helmets, tear gas guns, and everything.

All assembled to greet the demonstrators who were supposedly headed for the bridge. Officers spread out along the railroad tracks that run between the canal towpath and the construction fences at the river's edge.

It was sunny and clear, a beautiful day. But the police radio calls were ominous: send all wagons to Three Sisters Bridge (as if it were already built). "We'll need all available traffic men in the Key Bridge, M Street, Canal Road area. In case we have to use gas on 'em, we'll need to clear the streets and stop traffic." "A crowd of 150 to 200 is coming down across the footbridge. They all look like students, so . . . "

An officer deploying his troops: "Anybody tries to get near this little bridge (which runs beside the railroad track), just throw the bastards off."

Police were questioning press cards, being particularly meticulous with the Quicksilver Times people, who were in youth dress.

The crowd arrived. They were not all students; there were many "citizens" there -- the police kept making this distinction during the afternoon. "Stop the Bridge, Free D.C.," they shouted as they came down to confront the police. Some stayed up on the canal bank. Several of the police were obviously aching for some action. "I'd like to go up there and jerk that little bastard out of that tree," one patrolman grumbled to another.

They got their action, or at least an adequate excuse. Some of the students tried to outflank the cops -- in fact a few did -- so the patrolmen lit in, sticks flying. Nothing to get excited about, just a few heads busted, some blood, and the arm twisting you see cops do a lot: "Oh, how I'd like to twist this arm right off and throw it on the ground and stomp on it, just to teach you a lesson" looks on their faces. The horseman was having a great time, riding down on people as if he were in Birming-

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*The city ducks a trial*

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*Jail before trial*

ham; but his horse was not so well trained, and bad timing seemed to ruin his chances to trample or really whomp anyone.

The remainder of the flankers were pushed back to the main crowd; they were told the area was off-limits or something and that anyone there was subject to arrest. The crowd began to move up the hill, and cops began indiscriminately jerking students who happened to be at the back of the pack and placing them under arrest.

One of the citizens, a pert lady in a polka-dot dress, sought to know why the indiscriminate arrests which discriminated against students. "I just want an answer to this simple question," she said in a trembling voice to a policeman. "Then why don'tcha go to school?" slurred a WTTG-TV camera man.

Later, when the lady stayed back to complain to police, the cops slouched around laughing at her;

"Aw, don't even talk to her." Then the leader of the WTTG news team, a woman who seemed to know the first name of every high-ranking police man on the scene, came over to talk to the "citizen."

The WTTG lady allowed as how she had been studiously objective in her past coverage of demonstrations before, how she had done many interviews with "citizen" demonstrators. But she contended that this was nothing but a mob of disreputable "students." These non-citizens were using harassing tactics "known to set off the police." She could tell the woman was upset, but counseled that a "citizen" couldn't expect much if that citizen got mixed up and identified with a bunch of disreputable students. That's precisely the way she saw what had happened that afternoon, she said, and then she added something a little strange in the context: "And the medium is the message."

The protestor said she was not upset about being identified with the students, that she was angry because only students were beaten or arrested. To which the newswoman replied: "What do you expect?"

AS a means of filling the coffers of institutions too progressive for the tastes of the United Givers Fund, the Black United Front's recent fund drive wasn't much to talk about. It did, however, indicate very nicely UGF's basic disinterest in the needs of black Washington. UGF and its supporters couldn't even be bothered to take BUF's charges seriously. Typical of the reaction from Washington's elite was a statement from the Urban Coalition offering to "facilitate a quick resolution of the charges made by the BUF." But the Coalition's potential as mediator was somewhat clouded by its concurrent conclusion that "Every citizen of the Washington Metropolitan community should support the United Givers Fund Campaign." Apparently, the Coalition didn't expect to find any merit in the BUF charges.

FROM Tom Seaver, ace pitcher of the New York Mets:

"If the Mets can win the pennant, then the US can get out of Vietnam."

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